

MEMO

TO: Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force
FROM: Brett Sears, AICP, Associate Regional Planner, (213) 236-1810,
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DATE: December 15, 2004
SUBJECT: Draft Solid Waste Chapter Outline

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide input to staff to shape an action plan that relates to the policies of the Solid Waste chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and report progress to the Energy and Environment Committee.

SUMMARY:

Over the next series of Task Force meetings, staff will be presenting the currently adopted policies of each of the chapters of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for Task Force input. Discussion will focus on existing SCAG policies regarding the subject areas of each chapter and on the actions that stakeholders can implement in support of SCAG's regional plans. Staff is presenting the draft outline for the Solid Waste chapter, including input from solid waste experts, for Task Force discussion. Staff asks the Task Force to review the policies in place and to create an action plan for solid waste issues and then report the progress to the Energy and Environment Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Per Regional Council direction, SCAG staff is preparing a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) to implement and promote policy objectives of the Regional Council, fulfill the new organizational Strategic Plan, and serve to assist outside parties in working within regional plans. One chapter of the RCP deals with solid waste issues.

The Solid Waste chapter describes the current conditions for solid waste management, including hazardous waste, and describes the objectives of regional solid waste planning. However, the major focus of this, and the other RCP chapters, is on specific actions for specific stakeholders. The actions are drawn from the SCAG adopted policies as committed in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan Program Environmental Impact Report, the Solid Waste Task Force Report of April 1997, and the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan of July 1989.

Staff contacted those who participated in SCAG's Solid Waste Task Force to solicit input in developing the outline for the Solid Waste chapter. Experts who responded with feedback were interested in addressing conversion technologies, other solid waste facilities including transfer stations, rail transport of solid waste, and including universal waste (fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, etc.) and e-waste under hazardous waste. One expert suggested that the outline include the hazardous waste policies



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recommended in the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Another expert suggested reconvening the Solid Waste Task Force. The feedback from the experts is included in an attachment to this memo.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Solid Waste Chapter Outline
- Comments from Experts on Draft Solid Waste Chapter Outline

FISCAL IMPACT:

Preparation of the Regional Comprehensive Plan is included in the SCAG Overall Work Program for Fiscal year 2004-2005 (WBS 05-035).

**Southern California Association of Governments
Regional Comprehensive Plan
Solid Waste Chapter
Outline**

Introduction

SCAG Policies Regarding Solid Waste, Including Hazardous Waste

- Develop strategies to accommodate growth that use resources efficiently, eliminate pollution, and significantly reduce waste (2004 Growth Vision).

Recycling Policies

- Encourage international, federal, state, and local procurement policies that favor recycled products (1996 Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide) (RCPG)).
- Eliminate unnecessary duplication and/or restrictive regulations that hinder recycling, reuse, and composting of solid waste (1996 RCPG).

Waste Reduction Policies

- Promote source reduction technologies that provide more efficient product packaging (1996 RCPG).
- Waste reduction goals and programs should be included in each of the county plans (1996 RCPG).

Public Awareness Policies

- Encourage the continued development of a statewide waste prevention public awareness campaign that reduces unnecessary overlap and expenditures at the local level (1996 RCPG).

Hazardous Waste Policies

- Support only the use of the best available technology including monitoring, air, and water impacts for locating any nuclear waste facility (RC Resolution).
- Every county should accept responsibility for the management of hazardous wastes in the region in an amount proportional to the hazardous wastes generated within the county (1996 RCPG).
- Governmental cooperation is needed when siting new hazardous waste facilities (1996 RCPG).
- Facilitate hazardous waste reduction by:
 - Supporting strategies that give priority to waste reduction;
 - Assisting in information sharing, intergovernmental coordination, and public advocacy;
 - Developing a standard definition and reporting format for waste reduction in the region;
 - Monitoring county waste reduction efforts; and

- Facilitating intergovernmental cooperation in waste reduction among local government, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, special purpose agencies, and military institutions (1996 RCPG).
- Regional cooperation can help ensure that counties coordinate their approaches to hazardous waste management facility siting criteria to avoid one county's policies being significantly more restrictive than another county's, thereby leading to inequitable facility siting decisions. Through regional cooperation, general areas for hazardous waste management facility development that meet regional needs can be identified (1996 RCPG).

Action Plan

Actions from the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan Program Environmental Impact Report¹

Solid Waste Actions

- Minimize future impacts related to management of solid waste through cooperation, information sharing, and program development during the update of the Integrated Solid Waste Management chapter of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and through SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee. SCAG shall consult with the California Integrated Waste Management Board during this process.
- Encourage local jurisdictions to continue to adopt programs to comply with state solid waste diversion rate mandates and, where possible, encourage further recycling to exceed these rates.
- Encourage the California Integrated Waste Management Board to continue to enforce solid waste diversion mandates that are enacted by the Legislature.

Hazardous Waste Actions

- Encourage federal, state, and local efforts to educate businesses on the use of less dangerous alternatives to hazardous materials.
- Encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol to continue to enforce speed limits and existing regulations governing goods movement and hazardous materials transportation.
- Encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Office of Emergency Services, and the California Department of Transportation to continue to conduct driver safety training programs and encourage the private sector to continue conducting driver safety training.

Actions from the Solid Waste Task Force Report, April 1997

Source Reduction or Waste Prevention

- Continue to advocate voluntary efforts at the local, state, and national levels to:

¹ SCAG is required to implement these actions as part of the Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program of the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan Program Environmental Impact Report.

- Reduce material used in packaging products;
- Increase the useful life of products through durability and reparability;
- Decrease the toxicity of products;
- Facilitate material or product reuse;
- Stimulate reduced or more efficient consumer use of materials; and
- Increase production efficiency resulting in less production waste.
- Continue to institute governmental source reduction programs such as:
 - Municipal audits of the amount of waste being generated by different governmental functions; and
 - Government procurement policies which specify product characteristics, which encourage or facilitate waste reduction and the recycled markets.
- Continue to advocate consumer-based “recycling” or “eco-shopping” by strategies such as:
 - Bringing reusable shopping bags;
 - Buying concentrates;
 - Buying in bulk;
 - Purchasing reusable products;
 - Purchasing durable and repairable products;
 - Buying secondhand items;
 - Borrowing or renting items when possible;
 - Avoiding over packaged items; and
 - Being aware of products containing hazardous ingredients.
- Support state programs that offer incentives to those who use recycled materials; thus encouraging growth in the recycled goods market.
- Continue to support efforts at all levels to stimulate the growth of recycling markets that controls the state mandates and/or demands percentage recycling.
- Continue to advocate and support efforts at all levels to educate the elected officials and the public on the benefits of source reduction and specific actions that business, industry, and the consumer can take to reduce the volume of waste that is generated.
- Continue to advocate the development of incentives to increase the use of recycled materials, thus increasing the demand for recycled products, rather than legislate forced recycling, creating unmarketable products.
- Encourage the institution of pricing mechanisms that encourage all sectors to produce less waste.
- Advocate and support the education of businesses and industries for quantifiable source reduction efforts.
- Continue to advocate and support efforts at all levels to educate the elected officials and the public on the benefits of source reduction and specific actions that business, industry, and the consumer can take to reduce the volume of waste that is generated.

Waste Diversion and Recycling

- Continue to support the ongoing statewide effort to quantify the “cradle to grave” full life costs of local government waste diversion programs.

- Advocate and support the formation of regional (city/county) waste management programs to further waste diversion efforts and provide an opportunity for a more consolidated approach for meeting state waste diversion targets.
- Advocate the development of subregional or multi-jurisdictional efforts to address solid waste processing, marketing, and disposal issues.
- Continue to advocate CIWMB's taking a realistic look at market potential for recycled materials and their providing recycling market development assistance to local governments and the private sector.
- Advocate and support CIWMB's continuing efforts to develop and stimulate local, national, and international markets for recycled commodities and other programs to encourage the use of recycled products. These efforts should be closely coordinated with SCAG's work on the development of recycling-based industries as part of the broader effort to develop regional environmental business.
- Advocate CIWMB providing a greater role to major recycling market industry groups (paper, plastics, metals, etc.) in the drafting of marketing development policy.
- Support the implementation of the CIWMB Material Recovery Facilities development plan providing a greater role to major recycling market industry groups (paper, plastics, metals, etc.) in the drafting of marketing development policy.
- Continue to advocate and support efforts at all levels to educate the elected officials and the public on the benefits of waste diversion and recycling and specific actions that business, industry, and the consumer can take in that regard.
- Encourage consideration of rail accessibility to solid waste facilities and markets.
- Reduction requirements should be based only on the amount of residual solid waste ultimately disposed in landfills.
- Advocate and support state and local efforts to explore opportunities for voluntary actions to exceed the 50 percent waste diversion target.
- Continue to study whether legislative approaches to help market recyclables through financial support (loans, grants, tax incentives) are cost-effective.
- Support and encourage the development of subregional or countrywide processing facilities for solid waste.

Transformation Facilities (Alternatives to Landfills)

- Advocate changes in state law, which provide financial support and/or tax incentives for the development of pilot or demonstration solid waste transformation technologies.
- Support federal and state incentives for research and demonstration projects for solid waste transformation technologies.
- Support the siting of pilot and demonstration solid waste transformation technologies, individually or in conjunction with other technologies, giving equal consideration to environmental, public opinion, and cost factors.
- Support state legislative and CIWMB administrative actions to streamline the permitting processes for solid waste transformation technologies.

- Advocate that CIWMB actively promote solid waste transformation technologies, and provides information concerning the costs and benefits of these technologies to local governments.
- Advocate county and local programs to educate the public on the costs and benefits of solid waste transformation technologies.
- State law should be revised to separate and remove “incineration” from the definition of “transformation,” and provide the diversion credit to non-burn transformation technologies.
- Consider siting solid waste transformation technologies, individually or in conjunction with other technologies, giving consideration to environmental, public opinion, and cost factors.

Composting (Alternatives to Landfills)

- Advocate changes in state law, which provide financial support and/or tax incentives for the development of pilot or demonstration solid waste composting technologies.
- Support federal and state incentives for research and demonstration projects for solid waste composting technologies.
- Support the siting of pilot and demonstration solid waste composting technologies, individually or in conjunction with other technologies, giving equal consideration to environmental, public opinion, and cost factors.
- Support state legislative and CIWMB administrative actions to streamline the permitting processes for solid waste composting technologies.
- Advocate CIWMB to actively promote solid waste composting technologies and provide information concerning the costs and benefits of these technologies to local governments.
- Advocate county and local programs to educate the public on the costs and benefits of solid waste composting technologies.
- Consider siting solid waste composting technologies, individually or in conjunction with other technologies, giving consideration to environmental, public opinion, and cost factors.

Landfills

- Advocate the continuing review and update of the Siting Elements of Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plans and facilitate the ongoing public dialog on the role and need for landfills.
- Advocate CIWMB’s taking a major role in looking at options to continued waste disposal in landfills, including the utilization of alternative strategies to extend the life of existing landfills.
- Support the streamlining of the CEQA process and landfill siting regulations and procedures.
- Encourage and support existing landfills and the siting of new landfills necessary to meet residual disposal needs.
- Evaluate any proposals to transport waste by rail to other states and assess the impact of the actions on the economy of Southern California.
- SCAG should continue to collect and disseminate information on solid waste facilities and seek reimbursement from CIWMB.

Actions from the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan, July 1989

- Every county and city in the region should accept responsibility for the management of hazardous wastes in an amount proportionate to the hazardous wastes generated in the county and city.
- Each county should meet its obligation in managing hazardous wastes either by siting facilities to treat and dispose of hazardous wastes or by entering into intergovernmental agreements with other counties to site facilities.
- Treatment facilities should be sited in counties where there is a substantial unmet need for the type of treatment that a facility would provide.
- The minimum fair share responsibility for each county should be to share some combination of facilities sited within the county and intergovernmental agreements with other counties – which will equal the county's offsite hazardous waste generation.
- The maximum fair share responsibility for each county should be to have facilities sited within the county that equal the offsite waste generation of the county.

Background

Current Conditions

Waste Generation

Waste Disposal

Waste Diversion

Waste Composition

Waste Collection

Landfill Capacity

Other Solid Waste Facilities

Transfer Stations

Rail Loading Facilities for Waste Transfer by Rail

Material Recovery Facilities

Waste to Energy Facilities

Conversion Technologies Facilities

Hazardous waste

Business and Industry-Generated Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste

Electronic Waste

Universal Waste

Future waste system options

Disposal

Transfer and Processing

Conversion Technology Facilities

Measurement/Indicators

- Per capita solid waste generation

- Per capita hazardous waste generation
- Per capita solid waste disposal
 - Per capita hazardous waste disposal
- Diversion rate

Analysis/Responsiveness to Growth Vision Principles

Mobility

- Coordinating land use and transportation would ensure that solid waste handlers could move solid and hazardous waste efficiently and safely to disposal sites.

Livability

- Fostering livability in all communities would require proper siting of solid, including hazardous, waste facilities.

Prosperity

- A regional solid waste policy would address environmental justice concerns.

Sustainability

- Preserving rural, agricultural, and environmentally sensitive areas would require a regional solid waste and hazardous waste disposal siting policy.
- Developing strategies to accommodate growth that use resources more efficiently would lead to reducing and recycling wastes.
- Utilizing “green” develop techniques would lead to less construction wastes.

References

Expert Input on the Draft Solid Waste Chapter Outline

Staff contacted those who participated in SCAG's Solid Waste Task Force to solicit input in developing the outline for the Solid Waste chapter. This document contains the contact information and comments from the respondents.

From:

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You may want to include something about conversion technologies. Also, you may want to include e-waste as its own topic under household hazardous waste.

From:

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One of the issues that should be included and discussed is the need for additional transfer stations and rail loading facilities for transportation of solid waste by rail to the remote landfills. This is critical to ensuring that these ultimate disposal options are successful.

From:

Mike Mohajer
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Please note Dr. Kay Martin, Ventura County Solid Waste Department Director, has retired but remains extensively involved in the field. Additionally, I recommend contacting Ms. Shari Afshari and Mr. Carlos Ruiz of the Los Angeles County Dept of Public Works since they are, among other things, responsible for all solid waste management planning activities for the County of Los Angeles.

For the past several years, SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee has been involved with the issue of solid waste management and has its own Solid Waste Management Technical Advisory Task Force. The Task Force has not been meeting during the last several months. However, the issue of waste management is too critical to the well being of the SCAG region. It is imperative that the work you are beginning to start be conducted under the auspicious of this Task Force/the Energy and Environment Committee.

Include in the outline the hazardous waste policies recommended in the Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Plan, published in July 1989.

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I recommend the following additions to your outline. (**Bold** text represents recommended insertions.)

Background

Current Conditions

Waste generation

Waste Disposal

Waste diversion

Waste composition

Waste Collection

Landfill capacity

Other Solid Waste Facilities

Transfer Stations

Material Recovery Facilities

Waste to Energy Facilities

Hazardous waste

Business and industry-generated hazardous waste

Household hazardous waste

Universal waste

Future waste system options

Disposal

Transfer and Processing

Conversion Technology Facilities